

### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful review of this application and indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended consistent with the specification. A typographical oversight in claim 16 has been corrected.

New claims 18 and 19 correspond to the claims the Examiner determined would be allowable. Attention is respectfully invited to the Office Action, page 4.

With regard to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

One of the aspects of the present invention may be characterized, without prejudice to claim scope, as comprising an mold opening means 82 for moving the movable mold plate 34 in only one direction from the closed position to the half-open position. The mold opening means 82 is independent of the mold clamping cylinder 42. The mold opening means ensures that the mold plate 34 is accurately and quickly moved to the half-open position, thereby enabling good products to be made.

Applicants respectfully submit that even the above-mentioned elements of one of the claimed embodiments of the present invention are neither disclosed in nor would they have been suggested to a person of only ordinary skill in the art.

Specifically, each apparatus described in Bannai, Hehl, Urbanek and Itsuzi has a mold clamping cylinder, but none disclose and none would have suggested a mold opening means that is independent of the mold clamping cylinder.

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Amdt. dated April 8, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 8, 2003

Although the apparatus in Kobayashi has a first cylinder 7 and second cylinders 8, these cylinders 7 and 8 are for producing a clamping force at high pressure. Kobayashi does not disclose mold opening means for moving the mold plate to the half-open position.

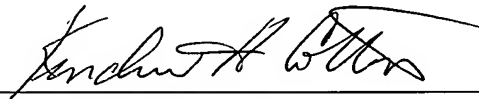
The cylinder in Glaesener would not have been incorporated into the apparatus in Kobayashi, Bannai, Hehl, Urbanek or Itsuzi. In Glaesener a cylinder is disposed between mold plates. However, in Glaesener, this cylinder is for moving the mold plate between the full-open position and the closed position, which is not consistent with the Kobayashi cylinder. Indeed, the present invention is unique since the cylinder disclosed in Glaesener differs from the molding opening device in accordance with the present invention.

Applicants have endeavored to respond to all matters raised in the Office Action. If, upon review, the Examiner believes something was overlooked in this Amendment, please telephone the undersigned.

Applicants earnestly, but respectfully, submit their application merits an allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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